

HOME DRESSMAKING.

SOME PRACTICAL HINTS THAT ARE OF TIMELY VALUE.

The Cloth for Waist Lining and the Way It Should Be Cut—The Importance of Basting, Ironing and Re-basting—How to Get a Perfect Fit.

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In presenting to our lady readers this series of articles on first class dressmaking as it is done abroad and by the best modistes of this country we believe we are doing them a lasting favor and one which will assist them in becoming accomplished dressmakers, so that, no matter how remote from the seat of fashion, no lady need wear garments that bear the unmistakable seal of "country" about them, and they may, if occasion requires, earn a respectable livelihood at home. These directions and diagrams are substantially the same as those employed by the great man dressmaker of Paris, and the fundamental principles are exactly the same. The lady who reads this series of six articles is advised to cut them out and paste them in a book for reference, and she will have something which would cost her twenty dollars to buy—the price of the "systems." No mechanical "system," however, can approach this in simplicity and practicality, and all so-called systems fail if the waists are not basted and managed after this plan, as no two women are formed alike, nor is any one woman exactly alike on both sides.

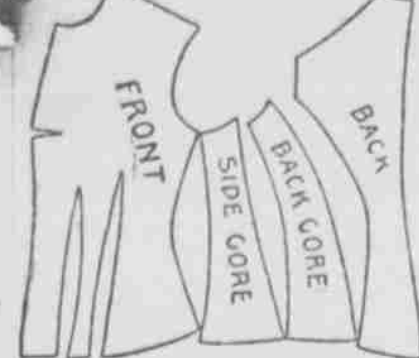


DIAGRAM OF MODEL BODICE.

In the first place it requires one yard and a half of strong silks or drilling for waist lining. This should be cut into the form shown by the diagram, but the length should not be cut until it is fitted. To get the proper dimensions put the material doubled lengthwise, on a table, and having the diagram before you measure the length of the waist from the neck to the bottom. Make dots at these places along the doubled selvage. Measure the length from shoulder to waist and the distance from the straight line from shoulder to waist, following the same distance to bottom; then mark the dots, which must vary according to the figure of the person, if very stout they must be about two inches across at the waist line, if slender, one and a half, and a reference to the diagram will show the form. The back and side body pieces are to be measured from top to waist line. When the lining is cut, allowing at least three inches margin beyond the seam, it should be basted and tried on, the seams being left on the outside. The fitter should then "take in" the seams and pin them until the whole lining fits perfectly, snug in all parts, but binding in none.

When the model waist lining has been thus fitted to the figure, take it off and iron it, so that the pins will make marks and show just where the seams should go. Then the lining should be rebasted, following the line of the pins on the outside of them, and the pins then pulled out. Try the lining on the figure, side out. When the fit is perfect the lining should be ironed again, the seams being laid apart this time, and after this the lining should be straightened with the iron, the dots placed will fall apart without being pulled.

The lining, with an allowance for seams of at least one inch all around, can now be laid upon the outside material and pinned so that it cannot slip and be cut. Care must be taken that all the figures run one way if the goods are figured or the nap if of wool, and that the selvage edge comes straight with the front of the waist. The outside should be allowed a trifle larger than the lining, as it is often of goods that will fray.

Haste the lining to the outside with great care, for much of the beauty and smoothness depends upon the basting. The lining should be held upward so that it may be just the least bit looser than the outside. The basting stitches should follow the line of every separate part of the bodice and up both sides of each dart. More depends upon care in basting than people usually suppose.

When all the outlines are properly basted with stitches not more than one-fourth of an inch long, turn the front over and baste as designated by the pins. A very full bust will require a V-shaped dart in front, as per diagram, in the lining only, and sometimes for quite stout ladies the front line will need turning in quite deep at neck and waist line, but the pinholes will show just how much is required.

The buttons go on the left side and the buttonholes on the right, and the lap for these should be deep enough to have the buttonholes cut in the doubled fabric. Leave the lining flat and sew a strong piece of tape along for the buttons.

When this is done, baste the darts, beginning the seam from the top, tapering from an imperceptible point. The darts should never be very high, the back one being an inch higher than the front, and this about two inches below the underarm.

The seams must always be connected from the top and carefully basted before sewing, care being taken to keep from puckering the seams. Baste the two darts first, then the side gorse, beginning at the arm size. The two middle bodice should be then basted together, beginning at the top, then the side pieces, which are the most difficult of all.

If the waist now proves to fit perfectly the seams can be sewn firmly and neatly, but always on the outside of the basting, next the edge, as the basted seams are elastic and sewing them slightly makes a couple of inches difference. When they are sewn lay the seams open and trim the edges neatly with the scissors and overhand or blind with lusting, if preferred. At the waist line two darts should be cut in the seams nearly to the seam, and at the edges are bound or overcast they should be pressed carefully with a hot iron before the bodice is sewn on or the ease left, and before the bottom is finished off. If the goods are woven, they should be slightly moistened; if of silk, the iron should not be too hot nor the silk moistened. The seam board should have one thickness of bannel and one of muslin.

OLIVE HARPER.

The poor punka "coolie" the name has an appropriateness which is in itself refreshing in these days of Indian temptations. It appears destined to be superseded by a "punks-pulling machine," which has been tried at Fort William and adopted on a large scale. The military authorities have, it is stated, ordered the necessary plant for pulling the whole of the punka in the Dalhousie barracks, a number exceeding 500. The barracks are divided into three flats, with six rows of punka in each, and the pullers are stated to be fixed at the end of the rows in such wise that each machine is pulling over fifty punkas.—London News.

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"A merchant is a tailor," answered one.

"A merchant is a man who keeps dry goods stores," said another.

"A merchant is a man who boys children and kin sell dear," remarked a third.

At last a little boy with a triumphant air cried out: "A merchant is a man who sells goods."

The teacher, corrected none of these mistakes in language.

STORY OF A PLAIN MAN.

HISTORY OF ONE BUSINESS ENTERPRISE IN NEW YORK.

A Youth Who Ran Away from Home and Went to the Metropolis Grew to Be a Very Successful Merchant—His Wife's Share in His Great Success.

A good example of how fortunes are made in New York City is afforded by the life and business operations of Millard Fillmore Tompkins, who died at the age of thirty-nine years. Mr. Tompkins was almost penniless when, a mere boy, he first came to this city. He understood his business, however, and he had the courage to strike out on a new path. The result was that building his business up little by little he died worth \$200,000. To his wife, fully as much as to himself, this success is due, and Mr. Tompkins was always the first to acknowledge this